

Town Manager's Report - Week of: 12/15/2017



Town Manager's Office:

Happy New Year! This is going to be a fairly long report because unfortunately I got so tied up in pre-Christmas preparations that I didn't send out my late December Manager's report. So please brace yourselves because we have a lot to report!:

- Susan Mustapich did a great job in reporting in the Camden Herald on my priorities for 2018 but in my own words these are my 2018 New Years' resolutions for the Town:
 - 10 Year Capital Planning – The Town has a lot of needs, wants and aspirations, which we need to prioritize over, at least, the next 10 years. I've been working with the Department Heads to identify projects, equipment and other capital expenses. From here we'll work with Committees and the Select Board to prioritize these expenses. This will be an important tool for budgeting and planning on a longer term basis.
 - Improve communication – On a local/internal level I appreciate and understand that local government isn't everyone's passion. Checking the town's website or Facebook page and sorting through my manager's reports and broadcasts of old Select Board meetings isn't everyone's idea of a good time. I'd like to do a better job in getting information out to people who are not engaged in local government and make it easier for those who are involved to stay informed. I'm not an expert when it comes to communications so I've enlisted the help of a small group of volunteers from the community who are experts to help me develop strategies to better communicate with residents, businesses and other stakeholders about Town issues, events, etc. We're also going to start determining what a process may be for developing a strategy to communicate externally, which is more about telling Camden's story to the outside world.
 - Excitement and Enjoyment – I want everyone to be excited about Camden, whether you live, work or vacation here and I want all Town employees and the volunteers involved with the Town to enjoy their jobs. There is so much going on in Camden to be excited about. We have so many great people who are doing great things for the Town and I want to make sure they are enjoying the work they do. We've got a big year filled with serious issues to tackle but there's no reason we shouldn't be excited to take on these challenges and have fun.
- The Sagamore Farms Solar Array installation has been completed by ReVision Energy and has been online as of Wednesday (1/3). The 122.85 kilowatt (kW) array is anticipated to off-set an estimated 158,786 kilowatt hours (kWh) of electrical energy used by the town per year (amounting to about 7% of Camden's annual electrical use in 2014). It consists of a total of 351 solar panels and is currently contributing clean energy to the grid.

Camden's Energy Committee did a fantastic job of championing this project and working through the minutia necessary for its implementation. I appreciate their willingness to lend

their expertise as well as their hard work and dedication. I'm certain this will be the first of many projects Camden undertakes in order to become a more sustainable community.

- One of the most significant decisions Camden, and our neighboring communities, will need to make for upcoming years is determining our desired level of service regarding Emergency Medical Services and how we would like this service to be provided. The Towns of Camden, Rockport, Lincolnville and Hope had a 3 year contract (2015-2017) with Northeast Ambulance Services, a non-municipal, for-profit organization which provides emergency medical and transport services. It operates 3 Paramedic ambulances during the day, and 2 Paramedic ambulances at night 7 days a week to provide Advanced Life Support (ALS) and Basic Life Support (BLS) care. Now that the contract is set to expire the towns must determine how we would like to move forward.

On Wednesday (1/3) the regional EMS oversight committee met with Northeast who presented an overview of our region's current call volume, versus call volumes from when the contract period began, the cost involved in providing the current level of service as well as other options. The next step will be for the towns to determine what their desired level of service is and whether or not to go out to bid or negotiate a new contract with Northeast. The Camden Select Board will be discussing this at their meeting on Tuesday (1/9).

- As of January 17th both the Police Department and Fire Department will carry nalcant. Both the Camden PD and FD will go through a training program and sign an MOU with the Maine Attorney General's Office to implement this program. Nalcant reverses the effects of opioids and can be essential in saving the lives of both members of the public experiencing opioid overdoses and first responders who have been unwillingly exposed to opioids – which has become increasingly common with substances such as Fentanyl.

This program was initiated by Select Board member Jenna Lookner who contacted me about developing this program after a resident contacted her to inquire if Camden had such a program in place. Chief Gagne was incredibly receptive to this idea and he worked very quickly to consult his Officers and the Fire Department, develop policies and procedures, in consultation with Dr. Ira Mendel from the Midcoast Recovery Coalition, and get the MOU in place with the AG's Office. I would like to thank everyone involved – particularly Chief Gagne. This goes to show that there are occasions when local government can move quickly!

Public Works

The snow storm on Christmas Day kept Public Works busy for about 17 hours doing snow removal on streets and sidewalks; we finished cleaning up downtown by midnight.

The month of December and January brought us 6 storms with about 28 inches of total snowfall (the following figures do not include the storm of January 4, 2018). The logistics for these storms totaled to:

- Sand use – 387.9 cubic yards of salt

- Sand cost – \$6,799.89
- Salt use – 203.7 cubic yards
- Salt cost – \$1,1384.79
- Salt cost per ton – \$58..39
- Truck rental for snow hauling – \$1,260
- 53.25 percent of the overtime budget has been spent as of December 31, 2017.

Police

The following reflects statistics from Police Department files from the last week in December through Jan 5th.

- All officers are in process of completing annual training programs with end date of January 17, 2018
- The department has developed a policy for use of NARCAN by both Camden Police & Fire Departments members who receive training. The policy was reviewed by a local Doctor who is an expert in the area of opiates, and the Maine Attorney General's Office. The policy has been approved and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been drafted with the Attorney General's Office. Both will be submitted after our scheduled training which is set for January 17th during our annual Officer training day.
- 164 complaints received
- 33 Patrol / Property checks completed
- 3 Radar Speed Enforcement survey on Pearl Street
- 4 Animal complaints
- 12 Agency Assist call
- 7 Daily use of Drug Repository
- 12 Minor traffic accidents, 3 involving car/deer
- Parking enforcement – 35 citations issued
- 16 Parking Problem issues resolved
- 8 Alarm responses; 7 to a residence, 6 to Businesses and 0 fire assist
- 1 Domestic Violence Arrest

The following reflects statistics from Police Department files for the period of December 10th through 16th, 2017.

- All officers have completed yearly mandatory training. An audit of officer training records has been completed.
- All staff has completed Workplace Harassment training. Supervisory staff has completed the employee and supervisory training in this area.
- The department is currently exploring the possibility of officers carrying NARCAN to aid in opiate overdoses and accidental exposure of opiates by officers. A policy has been drafted and is currently under review by the department and local medical experts. Should we decide to implement this program we will schedule officer training. We will also partner with the Maine Attorney General's office with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The Attorney General's office will provide NARCAN to the department at no charge.
- There were 119 complaints received
- 21 Patrol / Property checks completed
- 1 Radar Speed Enforcement survey on Pearl Street
- 5 Animal complaints
- 4 Agency Assist call
- 3 Daily use of Drug Repository
- 5 Minor traffic accidents
- Parking enforcement – 31 citations issued
- 10 Parking Problem issues resolved
- 5 Alarm responses; 2 to a residence, 2 to Businesses and 0 fire assist
- 1 PFA/Arrest
- 1 Motor Vehicle Burglary

Fire Department

- Continuing review of Code Enforcement educational materials
 - Personnel took the Legal Issues test administered by the State Planning Office
 - Personnel began reviewing the state land use program to prepare for that test
 - Continuing follow-up on the abandoned property complaint

- Conducted two department training sessions
 - Includes on session held at Rockland Fire
- Planned the Department training schedule for Jan - May 2018
 - Includes training with mutual aid Departments during each month
- Continued apparatus & equipment maintenance programs
- A small working group of staff revised/updated the town's Emergency Operations Plan
 - The Plan was distributed to Department Heads for their review and input
- Coordinated the repair of HVAC systems in the Public Safety Building with Thayer
 - During two separate weeks, the heat was lost in the apparatus bay
- Firefighters adopted a local family to assist with their Christmas
- Firefighters collected gifts & slightly more than \$3,000.00 for the Marine Corps Knox County Toys for Tots program
- Applied for and received a \$750 grant from Wal-Mart to purchase fire prevention materials
- Personnel changes;
 - Jeff Weymouth retired after serving the CFD since April 1980
 - Galen Todd retired after serving the CFD since May 2006
 - Ryan Fisher resigned after serving the CFD since December 2006
 - He will be moving to Rockport and continuing to be a Firefighter at RFD

Opera House

December saw a sold out tour of A Celtic Christmas – Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy. This was a technically large show with a stage set that we created, a full (incredible) band, and their two highly esteemed marquee performers and their 6 talented children playing with them at times. It was the perfect Christmas show – and we netted \$7,000. I have rebooked them for March 13 2019. We also hosted Ashwood School's Annual Winter Revels and screened Home Alone II with Select Bd member Marc Ratners able popcorn making assistance!

New bookings in the next year include a tour of a small production from Opera Maine (formerly Port Opera), probably over the summer. It's always nice when we can put the "Opera" back in the "Opera House" once in a while. We will host two Winterfest events in early February, Kim Murphy and HS students will put on a family show with a pirate theme, and I have booked one of the hottest Maine groups going right now – The Ghost of Paul Revere for Thursday night Feb 8th. We are pre-selling tickets to Toboggan Nationals registrants and of course through our usual channels. Also of note is a

highly rated whimsical doc screening for our CIFF Selects, in Jan; Faces Places; and a film on the restoration of the Marilee a NY40 Hereschoff that was done at French and Webb in February.

Next I'll be working on summer bookings and always interested in hearing what programming our community wants to see.

New OH Committee member Joanna Spinks and I co- wrote a grant which she received in order to attend the Association of Performing Arts Presenters Conference next

week with me in NYC. My attendance two years ago garnered a touring grant and five extremely successful productions we produced. There are workshops, a meeting of the New England Arts Presenters, meetings with agents and in your off time 1,000 artist showcases to choose from to see and consider. (yes, you read that right – it's a bit insane!).

I had a lovely visit with Cary Cameron, Kay Tucker's daughter, (of Katherine Aldridge Tucker Room fame) . Cary resides in NYC and in Kay's former home on Bayview St. She has "loaned" us the most beautiful book of a collection of memorabilia about her mother Kay -the many years she was the most photographed model on the cover of LIFE magazine, the highest paid advertising model, a film actress, and, most importantly, a lively, fun and devoted benefactor of the Opera House (not to mention dear personal friend of mine.) Stop by the office sometime to have a peek.

I have submitted a draft budget for 2019 to Audra. It combines in one budget expenses and revenues for both rentals and Opera House productions, so at first glance the bottom line numbers look quite different. I have left open for now our plans for box office services, as I plan to learn more from other organizations that have internalized those operations at the conference before making a final decision on next year's approach. I am analyzing what we have paid to an outside service, the cost to purchase the software needed, and if the fees would cover the cost for an internal person to handle the ticket sales.

This is also our time of year to regroup, program, streamline approaches, review and update contracts, documents, discuss strategies, etc And to be thankful for such a full and challenging year behind us and the great opportunities that lie just ahead.